Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 07221 172123Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /076 W

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P R 172100Z AUG 76 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7385 INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 7221

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, BR

SUBJ: BRAZIL'S OFFICIAL RESERVES INCREASE

1. FINANCE MINISTER SIMONSEN IS REPORTED IN TODAY'S PRESS (AUGUST 17) AS STATING THAT OFFICIAL RESERVES, AFTER BEING ON THE DECLINE FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, BEGAN RECUPERATING IN THE SECOND HALF OF MAY. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT AFTER DROPPING TO DOLS 3,527 MILLION ON APRIL 30, RESERVES INCREASED BY ABOUT DOLS 600 MILLION DURING THE LAST 90 DAYS AND NOW STAND AT DOLS 4.040 MILLION, SAME AS END OF 1975.

2. COMMENT: THE REVERSAL IN THE TREND OF OFFICIAL RESERVES COINCIDED WITH THE PICK UP IN EXPORTS AND THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE TRADE ACCOUNT WHICH REGISTERED A SMALL SURPLUS IN JUNE. SOME REPORTS SPECULATE -- IN PART BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY "OFFICIAL SOURCES" -- THAT THIS MOST RECENT TREND COULD CONTINUE IN COMING MONTHS, BRINGING RESERVES UP TO THE BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR'S LEVEL (DOLS 5.0 BILLION). WE BELIEVE SUCH SPECULATION TO HAVE LITTLE SUPPORT FROM AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FACTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 07221 172123Z

OUR OWN JUDGMENT IS THAT IT WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT

ACHIEVEMENT IF RESERVES COULD CLOSE THE YEAR AT
THE CURRENT LEVEL.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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Subject: BRAZIL'S OFFICIAL RESERVES INCREASE

TAGS: EFIN, BR To: STATE

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